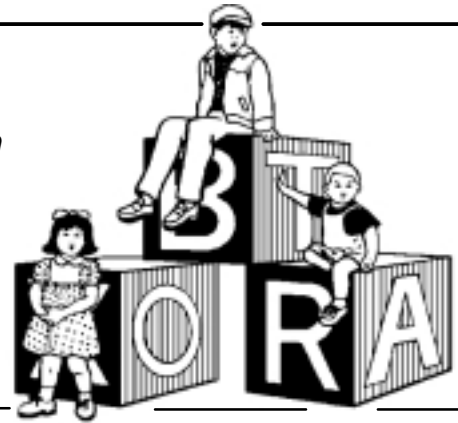


# Building Blocks to Safety

*A newsletter for prevention of childhood injuries.*



 North Dakota Department of Health

Winter 1999

Division of Maternal and Child Health

## Soft Bedding May Be Hazardous to Babies

To prevent infant deaths due to soft bedding, *the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development* have revised their recommendations on safe

bedding practices when putting infants down to sleep. Here are the revised recommendations to follow for infants under 12 months:



### Safe Bedding Practices for Infants

- Place baby on his/her back on a firm, tight-fitting mattress in a crib that meets current safety standards.

- Remove pillows, quilts, comforters, sheepskins, stuffed toys and other soft products from the crib.
- Consider using a sleeper or other sleep clothing as an alternative to blankets with no other covering.
- If using a blanket, put baby with feet at the foot of the crib. Tuck a thin blanket around the crib mattress. The blanket should reach only as far as the baby's chest.
- Make sure your baby's head remains uncovered during sleep.
- Do not place baby on a waterbed, sofa, soft mattress, pillow or other soft surface to sleep.

Placing babies to sleep on their backs instead of their stomachs has been associated with a dramatic decrease in deaths from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Babies have been found dead on their stomachs with their faces, noses, and mouths covered by soft bedding such as pillows, quilts, comforters, and sheepskins. However, some babies have been found dead with their heads covered by soft bedding even while sleeping on their backs.

## Trap-Resistant Trunk Kits

A parked passenger car can be very dangerous for children. Kids can get into the trunk but can't always get out. In very hot weather heatstroke may result and could lead to permanent disability or even death in a matter of minutes. In 1998, 11 children died in the trunks of cars. These young victims, ages 6 and younger, perished in three

separate incidents when they climbed into their family car trunks and were unable to escape. The children died of hypothermia when the inside temperatures rose as high as 130 to 170 degrees F in the summer heat. These tragedies brought national attention to the overall issue of trunk safety.

(continued on following page)

(continued from page 1)

## Protect your children from getting trapped in the trunk of a car. Here's how:

- ☐ Teach your kids not to play in or around cars.
- ☐ Watch your children when you are loading or unloading the car so they don't get locked in by mistake.
- ☐ Always lock the doors and trunk of your car and keep the keys out of children's sight and reach.
- ☐ Keep the rear fold-down seats closed to help prevent kids from getting into the trunk from the inside of the car.

General Motors has developed a Trap-Resistant Trunk Kit to help prevent deaths and injuries to children in car trunks. The kit has a mechanism that makes it difficult for trunk doors to be closed by children. A lever needs to be reset before the trunk can be closed again. The kit also provides a softly lit escape handle for a child to use if he/she gets locked in the trunk. For cars that have a pass-through from the rear seat into the trunk, the kit has a strap that helps keep children from folding down the rear seat. This makes it more difficult for children to gain access to the trunk from inside the car.

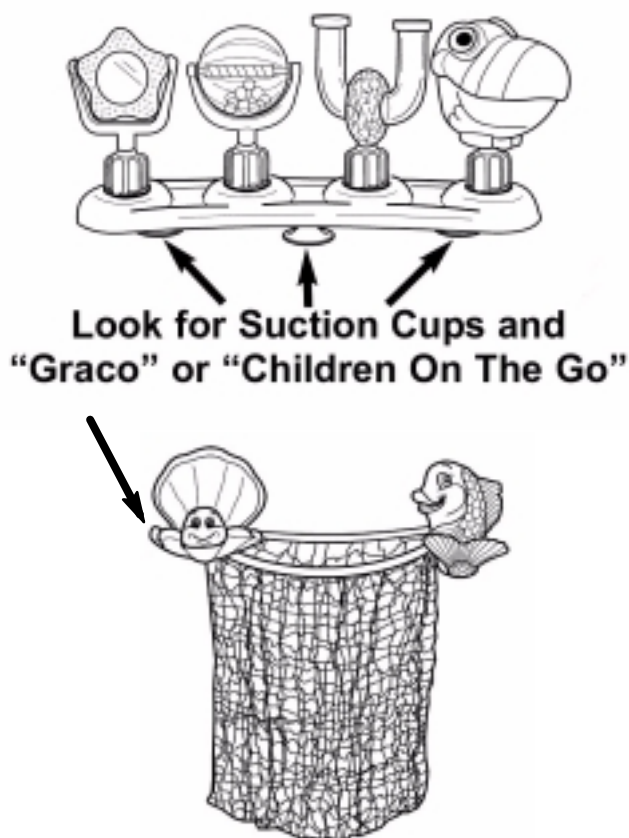
## Activity Trays and Bath Sets Recalled

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Graco Children's Products Inc. is recalling for repair about 100,000 activity trays and bath sets with suction cups. The suction cups can detach, presenting a choking hazard to young children. Graco has received four reports of children starting to choke after putting the suction cups in their mouths.

The activity trays and bath sets being recalled are the Graco and Children On The Go brand Stroller Snack

and Activity Trays, Bathtime Activity Trays and Bathtime Toy Netting products. The activity trays attach with suction cups to tiled or smooth surfaces. The tray toys are removable and interchangeable with other Mix'N Move toys, which are purchased separately. The Bathtime Toy Netting consists of a clam soap holder and fish washcloth holder that attaches with suction cups to tile or smooth surfaces. A net used to store toys hangs between the clam and fish.

Discount, department and juvenile product stores nationwide, including Toys "R" Us and Sears, sold these activity trays and bath seats from January 1998 until August 1999. Consumers should stop using these products immediately. To receive a free repair kit, consumers should call Graco at 800.446.1366.



*The Buckle Update* is published quarterly by the Injury Prevention Program, Division of Maternal and Child Health.



North Dakota Department of Health  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept 301  
Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0200  
1.800.472.2286

Murray G. Sagsveen, State Health Officer  
Darleen Bartz, Acting Preventive Health Section Chief  
Sandy Anseth, Division of MCH Director  
Dawn Mayer, Editor



# Precious Moments Tender Tails Recalled

The CPSC and Enesco Corporation are recalling 470,000 Precious Moments Tender Tails stuffed toys. The pom-poms on these toys can detach, posing a choking hazard.

These toys include the Lady Bug (476080), Bee (464295), Butterfly (482234) and Reindeer (381969). The item number can be found on the purple adoption registration attached to the stuffed toys. The Tender Tails toys are about 6 inches long. An attached label reads “Tender Tails,” “by Enesco” and “Made in China.”

Gift, card and collectible stores sold these stuffed toys nationwide from May 1998 through August 1999. Consumers should cut off the pom-poms from



these toys immediately. Consumers should return the pom-poms along with name, address, and phone number to Enesco to receive a free Tender Tails Hippo toy. Another Tender Tails toy will be given to consumers in exchange for returned pom-poms when the supply of Hippo toys runs out. For more information call Enesco at 800.632.7968.

---

# Spray String Recalled

According to the CPSC, three firms – Stelex Enterprises Inc., Major Import and LeSa Yang Family – are recalling about 912,000 cans of spray string sold under the names “Crazy Ribbon” and “Crazy String.” The spray strings’ propellant is extremely flammable, creating a serious risk of burn injuries when sprayed

near an open flame such as birthday candles. Flammable products intended for use by children are banned by federal law.

The sprays come in a round metal spray can about 6.5 inches high. The can is silver with a plastic cap that matches the color of the spray string. Colorful streamers cover the can. Writing on the can is “Crazy String” or “Crazy Ribbon,” “For Celebration and Decoration” and “Made in .”

Party and hobby stores nationwide sold the spray string from October 1996 through July 1999. Consumers should take the spray string cans away from children and stop using the product immediately. It can be returned to the store where purchased for a refund. For more information call CPSC at 800.638.2772.



# Toy Safety Tips for Holiday Shoppers



As the holiday season approaches, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) warns gift-givers to keep safety in mind when choosing toys for young children.

CPSC requires labels to be on all toys marketed for children from ages 3 to 6 if the toys pose a choking hazard to children younger than age 3. These labels tell consumers two critical things: that a toy is not safe for younger children, and why it is not safe. Before CPSC issued these labeling requirements, it was more difficult for consumers to know whether toys they bought for older children could be a danger to younger kids. Last year, an estimated 141,000 children were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms after toy-related incidents, and 13 children died.

Consumers can help prevent toy-related injuries and deaths by always reading labels and being safety conscious. The following tips will help consumers choose appropriate toys this holiday season and all year round:

## Younger Than Age 3

Children younger than age 3 tend to put everything in their mouths. Avoid buying toys intended for older children which may have small parts that pose a choking danger.

Never let children of any age play with uninflated or broken balloons because of the choking danger.

Avoid marbles, balls and games with balls that have a diameter of 1.75 inches or less. These products also pose a choking hazard to young children.

Children at this age pull, prod, and twist toys. Look for toys that are well made with tightly secured eyes, noses and other parts.

## Ages 3 Through 5

Avoid toys that have sharp edges and points.

Avoid toys that are constructed with thin, brittle plastic that might easily break into small pieces or leave jagged edges.

Look for household art materials, including crayons and paint sets, marked with the designation "ASTM D-4236." This means the product has been reviewed by a toxicologist and, if necessary, labeled with cautionary information.

Teach older children to keep their toys away from younger brothers and sisters.

## Ages 6 Through 12

For all children, adults should check toys periodically for breakage and potential hazards. Damaged or dangerous toys should be repaired or thrown away.

If you buy a toy gun, be sure the barrel or the entire gun is brightly colored so that it's not mistaken for a real gun.

If you buy a bicycle for any age child, also buy a helmet and make sure the child wears it.

Teach all children to put toys away when they're finished playing so they don't trip over them or fall on them.

BULK RATE  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Bismarck, ND  
Permit No. 419

Division of Maternal and Child Health  
North Dakota Department of Health  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept 301  
Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0200  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

